

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 02882 130457Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 DHA-02 DPW-01
AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00 /099 W
----- 105635 /17

R 130340Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7441
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2882

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CASC LA US
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL DISCUSSES MIAS, ALLEGES US
SUPPORT FOR REACTIONARIES

REF: A. STATE 290149; B. VIENTIANE 2864; C. VIENTIANE 2719

1. IN DINNER CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF DECEMBER 11, SOMBAT CHOUNLAMANY, DIRECTOR OF WESTERN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS, MFA, REPEATED LPDR POSITION ON MIAS AND ALLEGED THAT THE U.S. WAS SUPPORTING REACTIONARIES IN THE LPDR.
2. SOMBAT SAID THAT THE LPDR HAD NO INFORMATION ON MIAS ALTHOUGH IT HAD INSTRUCTED LAO PEOPLE TO REPORT ANY CRASH SITES OR OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO U.S. MIAS. WHEN EMBOFF NOTED THAT IT SEEMED INCREDIBLE THAT ANY SERIOUS EFFORT WOULD PRODUCE NO INFORMATION, SOMBAT REPLIED THAT THE U.S. WAS WRONG TO CONCERN ITSELF WITH DEAD AMERICANS AND IGNORE THE LIVING LAO PEOPLE WHO NEEDED U.S. AID TO "HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR." EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT THE ANGUISH OF FAMILIES OF U.S. MIAS STILL SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT LOVED ONES WAS A LEGITIMATE AND HUMANE CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.

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3. SOMBAT CLAIMED THAT "U.S. ORGANIZATIONS" WERE INVOLVED IN

SUPPORTING "REACTIONARIES" IN THE LPDR. EMBOFF NOTED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD DENIED THIS CHARGE AND THAT NO EVIDENCE HAD EVER BEEN PRODUCED TO SUPPORT THIS ALLEGATION.

4. EMBOFF ALSO NOTED THAT CHARGES REGARDING THE REOPENING OF RAMASUN BASE CARRIED IN "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" NOVEMBER 23 WERE UNFOUNDED AND THAT THE USIS DAILY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 17, WHICH HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO LAO MINISTRIES, HAD CARRIED NOVEMBER 15 STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN DENIAL OF ANY U.S. INTENTIONS TO REOPEN THE BASES (REF A).
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Message Attributes

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